

# Give Ear, O Lord:

SELECTED PSALMS IN NONSEXIST LANGUAGE



Edited by  
John Mahoney

Introduction by  
Father Carroll  
Stuhlmueller, C.P.



Of all the prayer books that exist and are still in constant use, the Book of Psalms is possibly the oldest, and among the best. Psalms were a favorite form of spiritual song among the Hebrews from before the time of King David, a master psalmist. The 150 Psalms that make up the Old Testament Book of Psalms are a collection made from collections of perhaps a thousand years of psalm-writing—the cream of the cream.

The verses of these ancient Psalms run the whole gamut of ageless human emotions—dejection, supplication, repentance, fear, awe, hope, wonder, joy, and thanksgiving. Above all, the Psalms are an incomparable expression of two indispensable virtues: profound faith and trust in God.

This small book of Psalms is a sampler, a hint of the riches that the Psalms contain. The present selection is in no way an adaptation or watering down. Care has simply been taken that the text of these Psalms is in an English understandable today. And in an English which circumvents the distraction some might find in masculine-only nouns and pronouns, when the reference is actually to any soul before God.



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**GIVE EAR, O LORD**

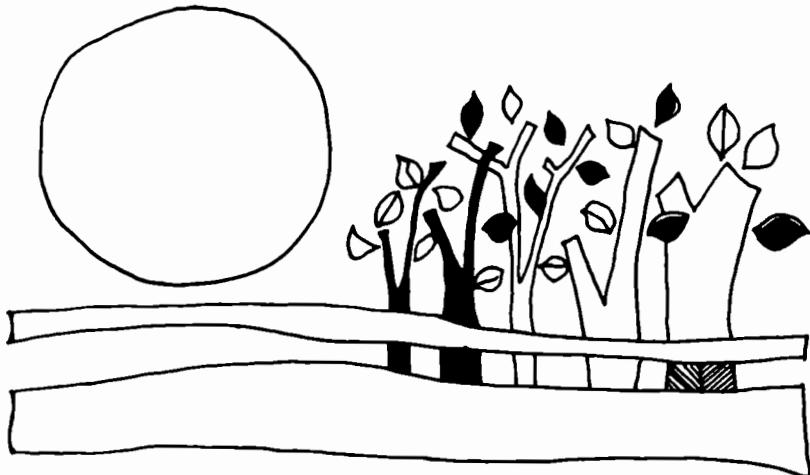
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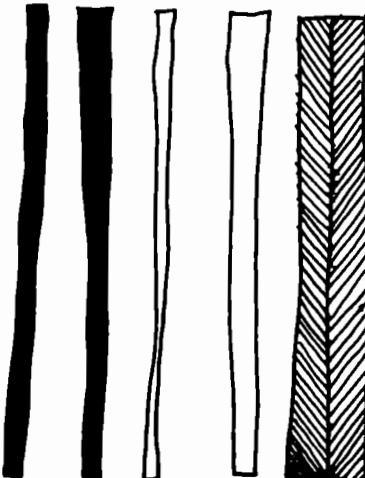
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Illustrations by  
Father James Hagan



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# Introduction

This new selection of the psalms restores these religious poems to the full human race. It studiously avoids the word *man*, as at the end of Psalm 5:

For you bless *the just*, O Lord!

or adds a reference to both sexes, as in Psalm 8:

What are *man and woman*,  
that you give thought to them?  
What are *their children*,  
that you care for them?

The Hebrew idiom is thereby communicated more accurately. In Psalm 5:13 the Hebrew reads simply *saddig, the just one*. In Psalm 8:5 the first Hebrew word, *'enosh*, means humankind with a specific allusion to lowliness. The second Hebrew word, *'adam*, again means the human race without sexual distinction, as is the case in Genesis 1:27.

A fresh edition, like this one by John Mahoney, may not meet all the stylistic and strophic demands of poetry as intricate and versatile as the Book of Psalms. Nonetheless it takes a giant step in the right direction, not only back to the Hebrew text but also forward into the pastoral requirements—and can we add, the revolutionary demands of justice—today.

Such is the way of good liturgy. Traditional words and symbols, received from older generations, not only stir depths of contemplation in the hearts of worshipers, but they also absorb, little by little, the color and lines of a new age in its social, economic, and political tensions. In fact, most symbols originated and evolved in surroundings as secular as neighborhoods and farms, as sinful as oppression and guilt.

The great religious act of the exodus began with the secular liberation of slaves from Egypt (Ex. 3:7) and gradually became a religious symbol of the transition from sin to grace (Hos. 8:13; ch. 11). Yet, only if the religious symbol continued to stir new secular acts of liberation would it maintain its true spiritual force and not degenerate into superstition. Such a vitiation could happen, as the prophet Amos bitterly declared (Am. 3:1-2; 9:7-8).

As the exodus came into immediate contact with

later problems and hopes, the symbol absorbed new qualities and took on a new shape. When David conquered Jerusalem (a political necessity) and Solomon built the temple (a political-religious triumph for the royal house), the exodus came to be celebrated by religious processions (Ps. 68), and the collapsible and movable Meeting Tent of the desert was transformed into a firmly stationary temple, glorious beyond Moses' imagination and reserved rather exclusively to kings and priests in its inner sanctum.

A genius endowed with exceptional faith perceived God's action in the first exodus and transformed the military action into a religious symbol. Ex. 15:19-21 gives to Miriam, the sister of Moses and Aaron, the credit for this religious insight. All Israel could now rally around to celebrate and by such liturgical action continue to sound the call to new secular liberations.

Secular movements today, like that of liberation, are summoning a new exodus out of Egypt. Faith-inspired people are taking the role of Miriam and discerning the hand and heart of God in these crusades for justice. Not only do they turn to the ancient religious symbols and prayers of Israel to appreciate what is happening, but like Israel they draw the important aspects of the secular movement into the symbol.

In the case of the Psalms, a less exclusively male-dominated vocabulary not only vibrates more sensitively with ancient biblical religion, but it also keeps contemporary religious ceremonies from hardening into superstition. As the prophets have warned us, no oppression is more severe than that one falsely endorsed by religious symbols.

This book draws its title from the opening lines of Psalm 5: "*Give ear to my words, O Lord.*" This same psalm contains another line: "You, O God, ... destroy all whose speech is falsehood." To say "man" when God means "man and woman" is not only false, it can be oppressive. I hope the prophetic stance of this book will draw many disciples, and the prophetic warning will turn into a blessing.

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## Psalm 5

Give ear to my words, O Lord,  
and attend to my pleas;  
hear me crying to you,  
my King and my God.  
It is you I implore, O God.  
From daybreak you hear my voice;  
from morning I call you  
and raise my eyes to you.  
You are not a God  
who delights in wickedness;  
the evildoer may not dwell with you;  
the proud may not stand in your presence.  
You hate all evildoers  
and destroy all whose speech is falsehood.  
You abhor the treacherous and bloodthirsty.

But through your great love  
I may come into your house;  
I will worship in awe at your holy temple.  
Lord, lead me in your justice  
and save me from my enemies.  
Guide my steps in your way.  
For the words of my foes are deceitful;  
their heart breeds evil schemes.  
Their throat is a yawning grave  
while their tongue speaks flattery.

Punish them, O God.  
Let them fall into their own snares.  
Expel them for their countless sins,  
for they have risen against you.  
But let all those who trust in you rejoice;  
let them always shout for joy  
because you are the protector  
of those who love your name.  
For you bless the just, O Lord;  
your goodness covers them like a shield.

## Psalm 6

O Lord, reproach me not in your anger  
and do not chastise me in your wrath.  
Have mercy on me, Lord; I am afflicted.  
Heal me, Lord, for my bones are wracked;  
my soul is in torment.  
How long, O Lord, must this go on?

Return, O Lord, and rescue me;  
O save me for your mercy's sake!  
For in the grave there is no one  
who remembers you.  
Who among the dead can praise you?

I am spent with my sighing.  
Every night I soak my bed with tears  
and drench my pillow with grieving.  
My eyes are worn out with weeping,  
and I have grown old  
hounded by my foes.

Away from me you wicked hordes!  
The Lord has heard my weeping;  
he has listened to my pleas;  
the Lord will receive my prayer.  
Let all my foes fall back in terror.  
Let them flee in panic and shame.

## Psalm 8

O Lord, our Lord,  
how magnificent is your name  
through all the earth!  
Your majesty is exalted above the heavens!  
Out of the mouths of babes and nurslings  
praise ascends to you and baffles your enemies,  
subduing the foe and the rebel.

When I gaze at your heavens,  
the work of your hands,  
at the moon and stars  
which you have established,  
what are man and woman,  
that you give thought to them?  
What are their children,  
that you care for them?

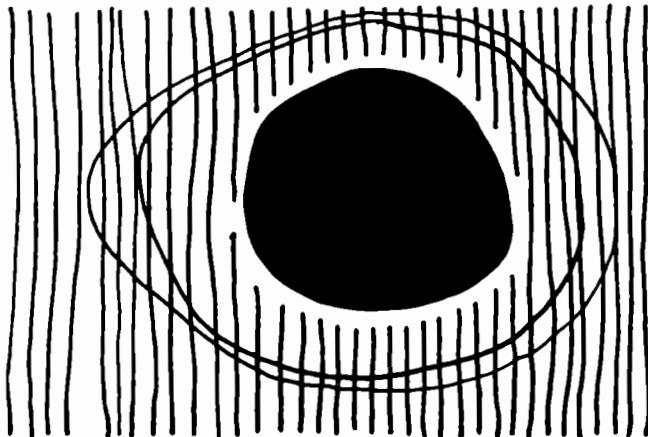
You have made them a  
little lower than the angels  
and have crowned them with glory and honor.  
You have given them dominion  
over the works of your hands.  
You have set all things at their feet:  
all sheep and oxen, all wild beasts,  
the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea,  
all things that traverse the paths of the deep.  
O Lord, our Lord, how magnificent is your name  
through all the earth!

## Psalm 13

How long will you forget me Lord—forever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?  
How long must I bear this torment,  
this grief in my heart night and day?  
How long will my enemy triumph over me?

Look at me, answer me, Lord my God!  
Let me see light before I fall asleep in death.  
Let not my enemies boast that  
they have conquered me,  
and my oppressors cheer to see my ruin.

For I put my trust in your mercy.  
Let my heart exult  
that you have saved me.  
Let me sing to the Lord  
for all the mercy he has shown me!



## Psalm 16

Keep me safe, O God,  
for I entrust myself to you.  
I said to the Lord, "You are my God;  
in you alone lies all my good."  
And I have found delight among his faithful  
dwelling in his land.

But those who follow strange gods  
only multiply their sorrows.  
I will not pour blood libations with idolaters,  
nor will my mouth pronounce the names of idols.

You, Lord, are my portion and my cup,  
and you alone hold up my prize.  
The boundary lines assign a pleasant plot to me,  
and I am well pleased with my heritage.

I bless the Lord who counsels me.  
Through nighttime, too,  
my heart guides me to him.  
I keep the Lord's presence always in mind;  
with him at my right hand I cannot falter.  
Thus my heart is glad and my soul rejoices;  
my body also rests secure.

For you do not abandon me  
to the abode of the dead,  
nor let your faithful servant see the pit.  
You show me the pathway of life:  
of joy complete before your holy face,  
and never-ceasing bliss at your right hand.

## Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
He brings me to rest in green pastures;  
he leads me to quiet waters  
and renews my strength.  
He is faithful to his word:  
he leads me by safe paths.

Even when I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death,  
I fear no danger  
for you are with me;  
your crook and your staff  
are my protection.

You prepare a table for me  
before the eyes of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup is running over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

## Psalm 25

To you, Lord, I lift up my heart.  
My God, in you I place my trust.  
Let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies exult in my defeat.  
Never shall they who trust in you  
be put to shame,  
but only they who foolishly oppose you.

Lord, show your ways to me  
and teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth, teach me;  
for you are the God who saves me.  
You, day by day, are my hope.

Remember, Lord, your tenderness, your kindness,  
from ages long past even until now.  
Recall no more the sins of my youth  
nor my offenses;  
remember me in the light of your mercy, Lord,  
for the sake of your goodness.

The Lord is sweet and righteous;  
he shows sinners the way to follow.  
He escorts the humble  
on the path of righteousness;  
he teaches the meek his way.  
All the ways of the Lord are mercy and truth  
to those who keep his covenant and commandments.  
For the sake of your name, O Lord,  
pardon my sin, my grievous sin.

To all those who revere him  
the Lord will show the path  
that they should choose.  
Their souls shall dwell in happiness;  
their children shall inherit the land.  
The Lord's friendship is for those who fear him,  
and he will reveal his covenant to them.

My eyes are always upon the Lord;  
he will pull my feet out of the net.  
Look upon me and have mercy on me,  
for I am alone and in affliction!  
Calm the anguish of my heart;  
deliver me from my torments.  
Look upon my pain and my grief  
and forgive me all my sins.

Look at my enemies—they are many,  
and they hate me with cruel hatred.  
Guard my life, save me.  
Let me not be ashamed,  
for I take shelter in you.  
Let innocence and integrity protect me,  
for, Lord, I hope in you.  
O God, from all their troubles  
save your people, Israel.

## Psalm 30

I will exalt you, Lord,  
for you have rescued me;  
you have not let my foes rejoice at my fall.  
Lord, my God, I cried to you,  
and you have healed me.  
You have brought me back, Lord, from the grave  
and have saved me  
when I was slipping into the pit.

Sing to the Lord, you his faithful,  
give thanks to his holy name.  
For his anger lasts but a moment  
and his favor endures a lifetime.  
Weeping may last for a night,  
but joy comes in the morning.

In my prosperity, I said:  
"I shall never be shaken,"  
for your goodness, Lord,  
had made me as secure as a mountain fortress.  
Then you hid your face,  
and I was in peril.

I cried to you, O Lord.  
My God, I pleaded with you:  
"What will you gain if my blood is spilled,  
if I go down into the grave?  
Can the dust praise you  
or declare your faithfulness?  
Listen, Lord. Have pity on me.  
Be my help, O Lord!"

You changed my mourning into dancing,  
and my sackcloth into festive robes!  
My heart sings praise to you unceasingly,  
O Lord, my God.  
I will give thanks to you forever.

## Psalm 32

Happy are they whose offenses are forgiven,  
whose sins are taken away.  
Happy are they  
in whom the Lord finds no guilt,  
and who harbor no guile in their heart.

While I hid my sin my bones wasted  
and I groaned the livelong day.  
Day and night I felt your hand heavy on me,  
and my strength dried up  
as with summer's heat.  
Then I confessed my sin to you  
and no longer hid my guilt.  
I said, "I will confess my sin to the Lord."  
And you forgave me my offense.

Let faithful souls, therefore, implore you  
while time remains;  
then surely the rising and rushing flood  
will not come near them.  
For you are my shelter;  
you preserve me from distress  
and keep me under your protection.

The Lord says, "Let me teach all of you,  
and show you the path to take;  
I will counsel you, and keep my eyes on you.  
Do not be like horse or mule,  
which lack understanding,  
whose mouth must be curbed with bridle and bit  
to make them obey."

Many woes are in store for the wicked;  
but they who trust in the Lord  
are surrounded by mercy.  
You who are just,  
rejoice and be glad in the Lord.  
Shout with joy  
all you who are upright in heart!

## Psalm 38

O Lord, do not rebuke me in your wrath;  
do not chastise me in your indignation.  
Your arrows have pierced my flesh  
and your hand presses down on me.  
Because of your anger  
all my health is gone;  
because of my sin  
my bones are wasted.

I am buried under my iniquities,  
their burden is too much to bear.  
My wounds are foul and corrupt  
and my own folly is the cause.  
I am bent low; I am crushed;  
I moan from morning till night.  
My body burns with fever;  
my strength is utterly gone.  
I am prostrated, wasted away,  
and I groan aloud in anguish of heart.

But you, O Lord, see my longing;  
you do not overlook my sighing.  
My heart pounds, my vigor is departed,  
the light of my eyes is extinguished.  
My friends, my well-beloved,  
shun me in my affliction,  
and my own family keep far from me.

But they who seek my life  
set snares in my path;  
those bent on my destruction  
are plotting all the day to entrap me.

Yet I, like the deaf, do not hear them;  
and like the dumb I make no reply.  
I am as one who does not hear,  
and whose tongue cannot answer.

For it is in you, O Lord, that I hope;  
you will hear me, O Lord, my God!  
I have prayed,  
“Let them not laugh over me—  
those who boast when my foot slips.”  
Alas, I am close to falling,  
and my grief is never out of mind.  
I will confess my guilt;  
I will be sorry for my sin.

Mighty are they  
who without cause are against me,  
and many are they  
who without reason hate me.  
They pay me back evil for good;  
they persecute me  
because I seek what is right.

Lord, do not forsake me;  
My God, do not be far from me.  
Come quickly to help me,  
O Lord, my salvation!

## Psalm 42

As the deer sighs for running water,  
so sighs my heart for you, O God.  
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.  
When shall I see the face of my God again?  
By day and by night  
my tears have been my bread,  
while my foes say to me ever,  
“Where is your God?”

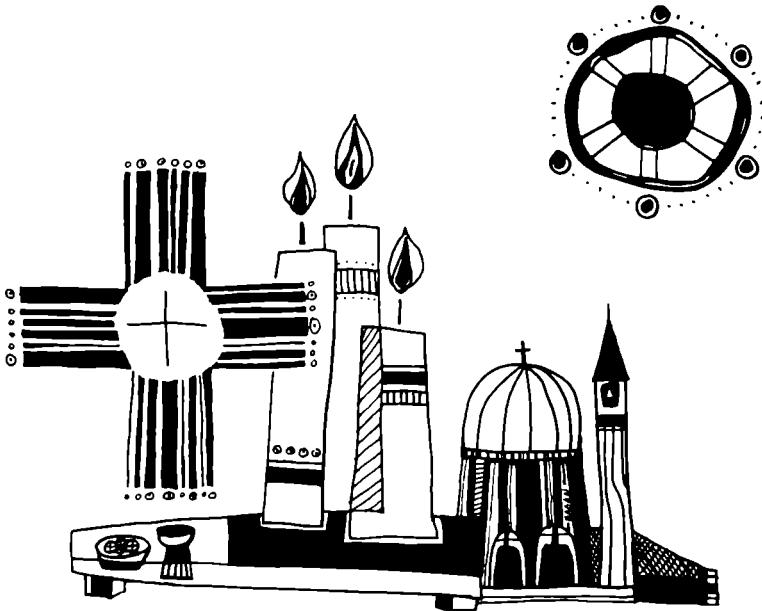
My heart melts within me remembering  
the days when I went with the throng  
and led them to the house of God—  
the cries of joy and praise  
of the crowd on a feast day!

My soul, why do you falter?  
Why do you groan within me?  
Hope in God!  
I will praise him again,  
my salvation and my God.  
O God, my soul grows faint,  
so I will remember you  
from the land of the Jordan  
and the peaks of Mount Hermon  
and the Mount of Misar.

The depths call out to each other  
at the roar of your cataracts;  
all your billows and waves  
have swept over me.  
By day may the Lord show his mercy,  
and by night may I chant his praises.

This is my prayer to the God of my life.  
To God, my rock, I will say,  
Why have you forgotten me?  
Why must I go in torment  
while my enemies harass me?  
They cut me to the bone with their taunts  
and say to me night and day,  
“Where is your God?”

Why do you faint, my soul?  
Why do you moan within me?  
Hope in God!  
I will praise him again,  
my salvation and my God.



## Psalm 54

O God, save me by your name,  
and by your power uphold my right.  
O God, hear my prayer,  
give ear to the words of my mouth.

For arrogant foes have risen against me;  
ruthless foes seek my life.  
They give no thought to God.  
But God comes to my aid;  
the Lord is the support of my life.

Let their own wicked schemes  
recoil upon my enemies.  
In your faithfulness, cut them off.  
I will offer sacrifices with a willing heart;  
I will praise your name,  
O Lord, for it is good.  
You have delivered me from all distress,  
and my eyes have seen  
the downfall of my enemies.

## Psalm 57

Have mercy on me, God,  
have mercy on me  
for my soul takes refuge in you.  
In the shadow of your wings I find shelter  
till the destroying storm has passed.  
I cry to God Most High,  
to God who has done all things for me.  
May he send help from heaven to save me  
and bring down those who trample over me.  
May God send his truth  
and his unfailing love.

I have fallen down among lions  
ravenous for human flesh;  
their teeth are lances and arrows  
and their tongue a sharpened sword.

Rise up, O God, above the heavens  
and let your glory cover the earth!  
My foes have spread a net  
for my feet to topple me;  
they have dug a ditch in my path  
but have fallen into it themselves.

My heart is faithful,  
Lord, my heart is faithful;  
I will chant and sing a psalm.

Wake up, my heart!  
Wake up, harp and lyre!  
I will awaken at dawn.  
I will sing your glory, Lord,  
among the peoples,  
and among the nations  
I will sing your praises.

For your love is as deep as the heavens,  
your constancy as high as the clouds.  
Rise up, O God, above the heavens,  
Let your glory cover the earth!

## Psalm 63

O God, you are my God;  
it is you I seek from break of day.  
My soul thirsts for you,  
and my flesh longs for you  
like a parched, thirsty, waterless land.  
Thus do I long to see you in the sanctuary  
and to contemplate your power and glory.

Because your faithful love  
is more to me than life,  
my lips shall chant your praise.  
As long as I live I will bless you thus,  
lifting my hands in honor of your name.  
My soul will have its fill  
as with rich feasting,  
and with joy on my lips  
my mouth will praise you.

Upon my bed I think of you,  
and meditate upon you  
through the wakeful night.  
You are my protection,  
and in the shadow of your wings  
I sing for joy.  
My soul clings fast to you,  
and your right hand holds me up.

May those who plot my destruction  
sink to the depths of the earth;  
may they fall by the sword  
and be left for the jackals.

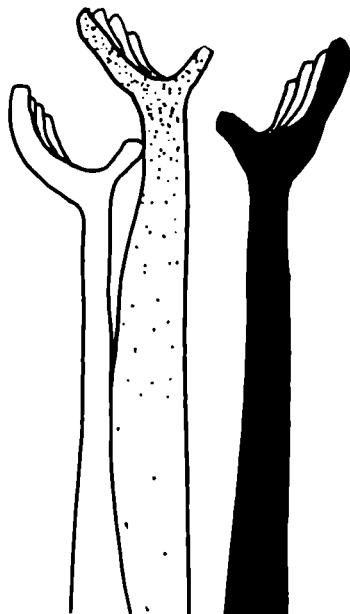
But the king shall rejoice in God,  
as everyone who swears  
by God's name shall rejoice.  
But the mouths of deceivers shall be stopped.

## Psalm 70

Come and deliver me, O God.  
O Lord, make haste to help me!  
Let those who seek my life  
be routed in shame;  
let those who would injure me  
be driven back in disgrace.

But may all who seek you  
be glad and rejoice in you;  
and let all who love  
your saving power say always,  
"May God be glorified!"

Here I am, poor and wretched;  
hurry to my side, O God.  
You are my help and my savior.  
Come Lord, do not delay.



## Psalm 77

I cried aloud to God.  
Loudly I pleaded with him  
that he hear my prayer.  
When anguish engulfed me  
I sought out God.  
All night I raised my hands to him  
and my heart refused to be consoled.  
I remembered God and I moaned;  
I pondered and my spirit sank.

You would not let my eyelids close.  
My mind was all in torment;  
I could not speak.  
My thoughts went back to far-off days,  
I remembered the years long gone.  
All night I grieved within my heart.

In dark thought I asked my soul,  
"Has the Lord cast you off  
for all time to come?  
Has he turned his face  
away from you forever?  
Has he shown his mercy for the last time?  
Has he withdrawn his promise  
for all further ages?  
Has God forgotten his loving kindness?  
Has his anger cancelled his compassion?"

Then I said, "Now I see what it is  
that crushes my soul:  
the right hand of the Most High  
has lost its might."

But I will remember the works of God,  
the wonders he has accomplished  
since the world began.  
I will call to mind all his works  
and think on his mighty deeds.

All your ways, O God, are Holy!  
What god is as great as our God?  
You are the God who has worked marvels  
and shown your might before the nations.  
By your strong arm  
you delivered your people,  
the children of Jacob and of Joseph.

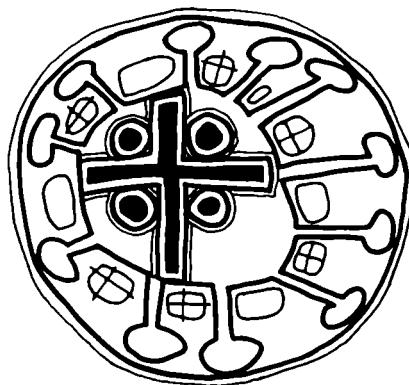
The waters saw you, O God, and trembled;  
they recognized you  
and shook to their farthest depths.  
the clouds spilled down waters,  
the skies sent out a roar;  
your arrows sped in all directions.  
From the hurricane  
came the voice of your thunder;  
your lightnings lit up the whole world  
and the earth shuddered and trembled.

Right through the seas you took your way,  
through the mighty waters you walked  
and no one could trace your footsteps.  
By the hand of Moses and Aaron  
you guided your people like a flock of sheep.

Psalm 84

How lovely is your temple,  
Lord, God of hosts!  
My soul yearns and faints  
for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh  
sing anthems to the living God.

The sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest  
wherein to lay her young  
close to your altars,  
Lord of hosts,  
my King and my God!



Happy are they who dwell in your house;  
they praise you forever and ever.  
Happy are they whose strength is in you,  
who make joyful pilgrimage  
to your holy mount.  
They pass through the Valley of Bitterness  
and make it a place of running springs  
and of ponds that fill up  
with the early rains.  
Their strength increases as they go.  
They shall see the God of gods on Zion!

O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer.  
Give ear, O God of Jacob.  
O God, our shield, turn your eyes  
upon the King you have anointed.

One day in your courts is more  
than a thousand days elsewhere.  
I would rather serve at the gate  
of my God's house  
than live in the houses of the wicked.

For the Lord God is a sun and a shield;  
the Lord bestows grace and glory.  
The Lord will refuse no good thing  
to those who walk blamelessly.  
O Lord of hosts, blessed  
are they who put their trust in you.

## Psalm 85

Lord, you have shown favor to your land;  
you have brought back the people of Jacob  
from captivity.

You have taken away the guilt of your people;  
you have pardoned all their sins.

You have withdrawn all your anger  
and have turned away from them  
your bitter wrath.

Now convert us, O God our savior,  
and avert your wrath from us.

Will you be angry with us for all time?

Will your wrath toward us endure  
from one generation to another?

You will turn to us again, O God;  
you will restore the life in us,  
and your people will rejoice in you.  
Show us your kindness, Lord,  
and grant us your salvation.

I shall listen to what the Lord will say:  
he is speaking words of peace  
to his people—to his faithful, and to those  
who turn their hearts back to him.  
His glory will abide in our land.  
His salvation is close at hand  
for those who fear him.

Mercy and faithfulness will meet;  
justice and peace will embrace.  
Faithfulness shall sprout from the earth  
and justice lean down from heaven.  
Yes, the Lord will bestow his blessing  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall walk before him,  
and peace shall follow in his steps.

## Psalm 86

Give ear, O Lord, and answer me,  
for I am poor and helpless.  
Guard my life, I am your own;  
save your servant who relies on you.  
You are my God: have pity on me, Lord,  
for I cry out to you the livelong day.  
Fill your servant's heart with joy,  
for unto you, Lord,  
I lift up my heart.

You, Lord, are good and forgiving,  
and your mercy abounds  
for all who call to you.  
Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer,  
and hear my cry of supplication.  
In the day of my trouble  
I call to you and you will answer me.

Among the gods, Lord,  
there is none like you;  
no other's works  
can approach your works.  
All the nations you have made, O Lord,  
will come and bow before you  
and glorify your name.  
For you are great and work wonders;  
you alone are God.

Lord, teach me your way,  
that I may walk in your truth;  
let my heart find joy  
in honoring your name.  
I will praise you, Lord, my God,  
with all my heart,  
and I will glorify your name forever,

for you have shown me such great mercy;  
you have saved me from the pit of hell.

O God, the proud have risen against me,  
A ruthless mob is threatening my life;  
they turn their eyes away from you.

But you, Lord,  
are a God of tenderness and pity,  
slow to anger, full of love and faithfulness.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me;  
fill your servant with your strength  
and save the child of your handmaid.  
Show me a sign of your favor:  
let my enemies be shamed  
to see that you, O Lord,  
have helped and have comforted me.

## Psalm 92

It is good to give praise to the Lord,  
and to sing to your name, O Most High:  
to tell of your love in the morning,  
and chant your faithfulness all night  
to the music of the lute,  
the ten-stringed lyre,  
and the resounding harp.

For your deeds, O Lord, delight my heart,  
and I cry out for joy  
at the works of your hands.  
How great are the things  
you have done, O Lord,  
and how fathomless are your thoughts!  
The dull-minded cannot grasp them;  
the fool has no conception of them.  
Though the wicked flourish like weeds  
and evildoers all grow rich,  
they are doomed to eternal destruction.  
But you, Lord, are forever the Most High.

For look at your enemies, O Lord,  
see how your enemies perish  
and evildoers are all put to flight!

Yet you give me the strength of a wild bull,  
and you anoint my head with fragrant oil.  
My own eye has seen the fall of my enemies,  
and my ear has heard with joy  
of my foes' undoing.

Your righteous servants  
shall flourish like the palm tree  
and grow like a cedar of Lebanon.  
They are planted in the house of the Lord;  
they shall thrive in the courts of our God,  
still bearing fruit in their old age.  
Thus do they show that the Lord,  
our God is righteous. He is my rock  
and there is no injustice in him.

## Psalm 93

The Lord is king  
and clothed in majesty.  
The Lord is robed and girded with might.

You have given the earth a foundation  
never to be shaken.  
Before all beginnings  
your throne has stood;  
before time began  
and forever you are God.

The seas surge up, O Lord,  
the waters loudly roar,  
the mighty floods thunder.  
But greater than the roar of the deep,  
mightier than the surging sea,  
the Lord reigns on high.

Your decrees are eternal, O Lord.  
Holy is your house,  
and holy shall it be  
through never-ending ages.

## Psalm 116

I love the Lord  
because he has heard  
my cry beseeching him,  
because he has inclined his ear to me  
when I have called him.

The grasp of death was around me  
and the cords of hell bound me;  
anguish and grief were my lot.  
Then I called on the name of the Lord:  
“O Lord, save me!”

The Lord is good and just.  
Our God is compassionate.  
The Lord guards the simple-hearted.  
I was lost and he saved me.  
Rest again, my soul,  
the Lord has been bountiful to you.  
He has saved my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears,  
and my feet from falling.  
I will walk in the Lord's sight  
in the land of the living.

I trusted even while I said,  
“I am in great affliction,”  
and while I said in my fear,  
“All people are liars.”

What shall I offer the Lord  
for all the good things he has done to me?  
I will take the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the Lord;

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful.  
I am your servant, Lord—your servant  
and the child of your maidservant.  
You have unfastened my bonds.

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and will call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem!



## Psalm 130

Out of the depths  
I have cried to you, O Lord,  
Lord hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive  
to my cries of supplication.

Should you, O Lord, record our guilt,  
Lord, who should stand?  
But with you there is forgiveness,  
that you may be revered.

My soul waits for the Lord,  
My hope is in his word.  
My soul looks for the Lord  
more than those who watch all night  
look for the dawn.

More than the night watchers  
await the dawn  
let Israel wait for the Lord.  
For with the Lord  
there is mercy,  
and with him is plentiful redemption.  
And he will redeem his people, Israel,  
from all their sins.

## Psalm 145

I will glorify you, God my King,  
And bless your name forever and ever.  
I will exalt you every day  
and praise your name forever and ever.

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,  
his greatness is beyond our knowing.  
Generation after generation  
shall proclaim your works  
and praise your mighty deeds.  
They shall speak of your splendid majesty  
and tell of your marvelous works.  
They shall tell of your great exploits  
and shall proclaim your grandeur.  
They shall recall your surpassing goodness  
and sing with joy of your justice.

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and full of kindness.  
The Lord is good to all  
and has compassion for all his creatures.

Let all your works praise you, O Lord,  
and may your saints bless you.  
They shall speak of the glory of your reign  
and shall proclaim your might  
to let all peoples  
know of your great deeds  
and the exceeding glory of your kingdom.  
Your reign is an eternal reign  
and your rule extends over all the ages.

The Lord is faithful in all his words  
and gracious in all his works.  
The Lord lifts up all who fall  
and straightens all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you, O Lord,  
and you give them food when it is due.  
You open your hand and grant the desire  
of every living creature.

The Lord is just in all his ways  
and he is kind in all his works.  
The Lord is near to all who call to him,  
to all who call to him in truth.  
He fulfills the desire  
of those who fear him,  
he listens to their cry and saves them.  
The Lord preserves all those who love him  
but all the wicked he destroys.

My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord,  
let all flesh bless his holy name  
forever and ever.

